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ICMR ISSUES NEW TESTING STRATEGIES

Expanding the testing criterion for coronavirus, the Indian Council of Medical Research, in an advisory on 'Newer Additional Strategies for Covid-19 Testing' on Tuesday, said testing should be made widely available to all symptomatic individuals across the country. Besides, it also recommended deployment of rapid antigen detection tests for Covid-19 in combination with RT-PCR tests.

A BBMP marshal patrols the lanes around K R Market, which was sealed down amidst rising Covid-19 cases, in Bengaluru on Tuesday | PARAMESWARA H

B'luru under lockdown? Cabinet to decide today

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

COVID-19 BATTLE

10,118 Total Cases
K'taka crosses 10k-mark

397 Test Positive on Wednesday

6,151 Total Recoveries

164 Total Deaths

WITH the number of Covid-19 positive cases increasing steadily, specially in Bengaluru, and many localities and towns voluntarily shutting down, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa is expected to take a decision on the way forward when his Cabinet meets on Thursday. Several lawmakers from the city, including from the BJP, too have appealed to the CM to impose a lockdown in the city for 15 days.

As things stand, the State Government has directed officials to strictly enforce lockdown norms in places where there are more number of cases. The CM had earlier ruled out the possibility of continuing with the lockdown and had stated that his government will take all necessary measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, even as it takes steps to boost economic activities.

With businesses opening up under Unlock 1.0, the government is seeing green shoots in the revenue stream and the CM is likely to take a calibrated approach to tackling the pandemic while boosting the economy. Revenue Minister R Ashoka too is not in favour of a lockdown as it will hamper revenue collection.

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Urban co-op banks in RBI grip

Cabinet okays ordinance route for central bank's supervision; 8.6 cr customers secured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an ordinance to bring 1,482 urban cooperative banks and 58 multi-state cooperative banks under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ambit.

RBI supervision will begin from the date the President grants his approval, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said at a virtual press conference after the Cabinet meeting. The ordinance will help protect the savings of about 8.6 crore customers of these banks, who collectively hold ₹4.84 lakh crore in deposits.

The proposal was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech, in the wake of the Punjab and Maharashtra Bank fiasco last year. In February, the Union Cabinet amended the Banking Regulation Act to strengthen cooperative banks.

The Cabinet also approved two schemes announced by Nirmala under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package last month, including the establishment of an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund and 2% interest subsidy under the 'Shishu' category of the flagship Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY).

The Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, with a corpus of ₹15,000 crore, will be used to help animal husbandry, improve milk production, boost exports and create jobs. The Centre will provide 3% interest subvention to eligible beneficiaries.

Javadekar added that this will help create 35 lakh jobs.

Borrowers under the 'Shishu' category of the Mudra scheme already get collateral-free loans of up to ₹50,000. They will now get 2% subsidy for outstanding as on March 31, for 12 months, Javadekar said. The scheme is meant to incentivise people who regularly repay their loans.

The PMMY was launched by Modi on April 8, 2015, for providing loans up to ₹10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro enterprises.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved additional investment of $121.27 million (about ₹909 crore) by ONGC Videsh Ltd for further development of two blocks in Myanmar. This will be used for the Shwe oil and gas project in the Myanmar blocks. OVL had invested $722 million as of March 31 last year in the project.

The Cabinet meeting also decided to extend the tenure of a commission that is examining the issue of sub-categorisation within the Other Backward Classes, by six months - till January 31, 2021.

Amid talks, China keeps up its blame game

PUSHKAR BANAKAR & MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

INDIA and China on Wednesday held diplomatic talks and agreed to maintain communication to resolve the existing situation peacefully, even as the Chinese defence ministry and foreign ministry continued to blame India for the June 15 violent face-off and reiterated their claim to the Galwan Valley area.

Also, Chinese defence ministry spokesperson Wu Qian's claim that the defence ministers of both sides were in communication over phone after the June 15 incident, was rubbished by India. "No conversation took place between the two ministers," sources in the Defence Ministry said.

At the June 15 meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, the Indian side was represented by Joint Secretary (East Asia) Naveen Srivastava, while the Chinese delegation was led by the director general of the department of boundary and oceanic affairs of the Chinese foreign ministry.

"The two sides discussed in detail the developments in the India-China border areas, in particular the situation in Eastern Ladakh. The Indian side conveyed its concerns on the recent developments in Eastern Ladakh, including on the violent face-off in Galwan Valley area on June 15 that had resulted in casualties. In this regard, it was emphasised that both sides should strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control (LAC)," a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Earlier, the Chinese defence ministry demanded that Indian troops be withdrawn from Galwan Valley and accused Indian diplomats and media personnel of spreading 'large amounts of fake news'. P8

Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane speaks to a soldier as he reviews the ground situation in Eastern Ladakh, days after an India-China clash, on Wednesday | PTI

GROWTH SHOCK

India's GDP to contract by 4.5% this year: IMF

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

INDIA'S economy is going hell for leather with the IMF projecting FY21 GDP growth to contract by 4.5%. Such a sharp revision from its April estimate of 1.9% growth offers a withering assessment of the economic slowdown prolonged by the pandemic-induced lockdown and slower recovery.

But IMF's latest World Economic Report estimates, in its own words, are inscrutable due to a higher-than-usual degree of uncertainty, which is to say that the actual growth decline could be fiercer than all forecasts.

Global growth too is projected to shrink 4.9% in 2020 as against its previous estimate of 3%. But the startling news is not so much about the extraordinary collapse in growth, but its recovery, the direction of which the multilateral agency has no hold on.

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Be confident: CM to SSLC students

Bengaluru: As about 8.5 lakh students will appear for the SSLC exams starting Thursday, the government will face its biggest test yet. On Wednesday, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa tweeted advising students to be confident, and to use protective masks and hand sanitisers. DETAILS: P5

Sri Vajubhai Vala
Hon'ble Governor
and
Chancellor, RGUHS

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka

A DAY TO LOOK FORWARD.
A TIME TO HOLD HEADS HIGH.
AN OCCASION TO REJOICE.

The Vice-Chancellor, Members of the Senate,
Syndicate and Academic Council cordially invite you to the...

TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL CONVOCATION

ONLINE CONVOCATION

for Conferring Degrees to the Graduates of Health Sciences

Sri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

DATE Thursday 25th June, 2020 at 11.30 AM
VENUE NIMHANS Convention Centre, Bengaluru.

Presided by
Dr. K. SUDHAKAR,
Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education,
Government of Karnataka and
Pro-Chancellor of RGUHS

Convocation Address by
Padma Bhushan Dr. P. BALARAM,
Former Director, Indian Institute of Science,
Bengaluru.

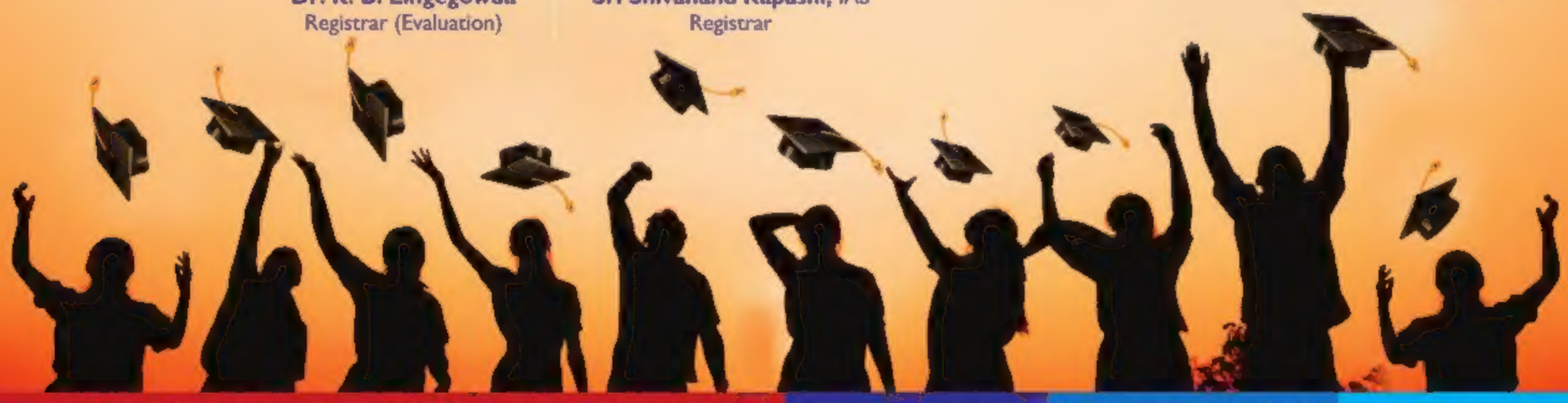
"DOCTOR OF SCIENCE" (Honoris causa)
Will be conferred on
Dr. L. APPAJI,
Professor of Paediatric Oncology,
Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru

Dr. K. SUDHAKAR,
Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education,
Govt of Karnataka and Pro-Chancellor of RGUHS
participating in online training activities of the University

Dr. S. Sacchidanand
Vice-Chancellor
will submit the report of the University.

Dr. K. B. Lingegowda
Registrar (Evaluation)

Sri Shivanand Kapashi, IAS
Registrar



Rajiv Gandhi University Of Health Sciences, Karnataka | 4th "T" Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041. Please watch live online on https://youtu.be/J7Dg7Q4L8ql https://www.facebook.com/VCRGUHS